



GAU 3651

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

"INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT"

#3/IDS

APPLICANT(S): KLAUS GETTWART ET AL

SERIAL NO.: 09/586,481 GROUP ART UNIT: 3651

FILED: June 1, 2000

TITLE: "METHOD FOR PROCESSING POSTAL MATTER AND  
POSTAL MATTER PROCESSING SYSTEM"

Assistant Commissioner For Patents,

Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R:

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In accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.56, Applicants respectfully request that citation and examination of the following document be made during the course of examination of the above-referenced application for United States Letters Patent.

Reference AA - United States Patent No. 5,602,742

Reference AB - United States Patent No. 5,539,190

Reference AC - United States Patent No. 5,477,462

Reference AD - United States Patent No. 5,388,049

Reference AE - United States Patent No. 5,293,030

Reference AF - United States Patent No. 5,068,797

Reference AG - United States Patent No. 5,065,000

Reference AH - United States Patent No. 4,947,333

Reference AI - United States Patent No. 4,923,022

Reference AJ - United States Patent No. 4,511,793

Reference AL - German OS 196 17 586

Reference AM - German OS 28 19 872

Reference AN - German OS 24 30 413

Reference AO - European Application 0 911 767

Reference AP - European Application 0 866 427

Reference AQ - United Kingdom Application 2 274 622

### **EXPLANATION OF RELEVANCE**

References AE, AG, AI, AM and AN were identified and discussed at pages 1 and 2 of the present specification, and Applicants stand by the statements in the specification concerning the teachings of those references. Reference AE corresponds to European Application 503 311.

Reference AP was cited at page 17 of the present specification as an example of a suitable printing machine base station controlled by a personal computer, which can perform the meter function of the inventive postage meter machine. An English translation of Reference AP is not readily available to the Applicants, however, an English language abstract is attached thereto.

References AA, AB, AD, the European counterpart to Reference AE, AF, AH and AO were cited by the European Patent Office during examination of the European Application corresponding to the present United States application. An English translation of Reference AO is not readily available to the Applicants, however, an English language abstract is attached thereto.

References AC, the German counterpart to Reference AE, AJ, AL and AQ were cited by the German Patent Office during examination of the German application corresponding to the present United States application.

Reference AL corresponds to copending United States application Serial No. 08/850,805, filed May 2, 1997 ("Method And Arrangement For Data Processing In A Mail Shipping System Having A Postage Meter Machine, Wherein A Carrier-Identifying Mark Is Scanned And

Processed," Kubatzki et al). That application was allowed on January 10, 2001 but has not yet issued as a patent. The application was examined in Group Art Unit 2161, and Applicants assume the Examiner has access to this copending application and therefore have not burdened the present file with a duplicate copy. If the Examiner would nevertheless prefer that a copy be provided, the Examiner is requested to notify the undersigned counsel for the Applicants and a copy will be submitted. The present application and this copending application are owned by the same assignee, Francotyp Postalia AG & Co. This copending application can be used as a translation of Reference AL, however, Applicants do not represent that it is a literal translation.

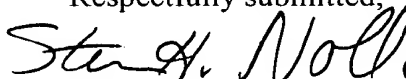
For all of the English language references, no further commentary concerning their teachings is necessary.

Copies of each of the above references together with Form 1449 are submitted herewith.

As of the date of mailing of this Information Disclosure Statement, a First Office Action on the merits has not been received in connection with this application. This Information Disclosure Statement is therefore in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b)(3), and no fee is necessary.

All claims of the application are submitted to be patentable over the teachings of the above references, taken singly or in combination. Early consideration of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C. 20231 on February 5, 2001.

Steven H. Noll

Name of Applicants' Attorney

Steven H. Noll

Signature

February 5, 2001

Date